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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/341,328 | 07/06/1999 | SATOSHI MIKAMI | KINOSHITACA | 4999 |
| 7590 10/25/2004 | | | | |
| FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS | | EXAMINER | | |
| 2026 RAMBLING ROAD | | CHANNAVAJALA, LAKSHMI SARADA | | |
| KALAMAZOO, MI 490081699 | | ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER | | |

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| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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Commissioner for Patents

Acknowledgment is made of a Request for reconsideration dated 9-13-04. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered but not found persuasive. Examiner agrees that according to MPEP 1206, examiner is required to give a notice to the Applicant when an appeal Brief fails to address any grounds of rejection and provide an opportunity to correct the defect by filing a Supplemental Appeal Brief. However, the original Appeal Brief (dated 10-14-03) presented only one issue before the board (under the sub-heading ISSUES), whether the rejection of claims 12-41 are unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over US patent No. 5,496,544. Applicants have not presented the issue of rejection of claims as being unpatentable over US 5,776,497 to Lagrange et al., to the Board of Appeals and Interferences. Therefore, the supplemental brief is refused under 37 CFR 1.195 because the issue raised in the supplemental brief has not been presented in a properly presented appeal brief. *Reply Brief filed 2-26-2004 has been noted and no action deemed necessary. The application is being forwarded to Board of Appeals and Interferences.*

**THURMAN K. PAGE, M.A., J.D.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**